

CLAIMS

Claims 1-83 (canceled)

Claim 84 (new): An instrument panel assembly for an automotive vehicle, comprising:

a first molded plastic panel, the first plastic panel formed of a first plastic material; and

a second molded plastic panel joined to the first panel, the second plastic panel formed of a second plastic material different from the first plastic material wherein:

- i. the first molded plastic panel, the second molded plastic panel or both extend cross-vehicle;
- ii. at least one of the first plastic material and the second plastic is formed of a polyolefin material;
- iii. at least one of the first or second panels assists in defining an air duct for a vehicle cabin heating and cooling system; and
- iv. the first panel is joined to the second panel with one or more mechanical joints.

Claim 85 (new): An assembly as in claim 84 wherein the one or more mechanical joints include one or more mechanical interlocks.

Claim 86 (new): An assembly as in claim 84 wherein at least one of the panels provides a vent that is configured to open into a passenger compartment of the vehicle.

Claim 87 (new): An assembly as in claim 84 wherein the first and second panels are joined to each other at flanges of the first panel or the second panel, the flanges extending along sides of the first panel or the second panel.

Claim 88 (new): An assembly as in claim 84 wherein the first material is from a different plastic family than the second material.

Claim 89 (new): An assembly as in claim 84 wherein the first panel and the second panel are joined to a show surface that is exposed to view in an automotive vehicle.

Claim 90 (new): An assembly as in claim 89 wherein the show surface is molded-in-color thermoplastic.

Claim 91 (new): An instrument panel assembly for an automotive vehicle, comprising:

a first molded plastic panel, the first plastic panel formed of a first plastic material; and

a second molded plastic panel joined to the first panel, the second plastic panel formed of a second plastic material different from the first plastic material wherein:

- i. the first molded plastic panel, the second molded plastic panel or both extend cross-vehicle;
- ii. the first material or the second material includes polypropylene and the first material or the second material includes pc/abs; and
- iii. the first panel is joined to the second panel with one or more mechanical joints that form a mechanical interlock;

wherein one or both of the first panel and the second panel include an opening for receiving an instrument or a gauge.

Claim 92 (new): An assembly as in claim 91 wherein the one or more mechanical joints include one or more mechanical interlocks and the mechanical interlocks include a protrusion received in a channel.

Claim 93 (new): An assembly as in claim 91 wherein at least one of the panels provides a vent that is configured to open into a passenger compartment of the vehicle.

Claim 94 (new): An assembly as in claim 91 wherein the panels are joined to each other at flanges of the first panel or the second panel, the flanges extending along sides of the first panel or second panel.

Claim 95 (new): An assembly as in claim 91 wherein the first material is from a different plastic family than the second material.

Claim 96 (new): An assembly as in claim 91 wherein the first panel and the second panel are joined to a separate show surface that is formed of a molded-in-color thermoplastic polyolefin.

Claim 97 (new): An assembly as in claim 91 wherein the show surface is exposed to view in an automotive vehicle.

Claim 98 (new): An assembly as in claim 91 wherein one or both of the first panel and the second panel include an opening for receiving a gauge.

Claim 99 (new): An assembly as in claim 91 wherein one or both of the first panel and the second panel include an opening for receiving an instrument.

Claim 100 (new): An assembly as in claim 63 wherein the first panel and second panel are adapted to be joined to a separate show surface of the vehicle.

Claim 101 (previously presented): An instrument panel assembly for an automotive vehicle, comprising:

a first molded plastic panel, the first plastic panel formed of a first plastic material; and

a second molded plastic panel joined to the first panel, the second plastic panel formed of a second plastic material different from the first plastic material wherein:

- i. the first molded plastic panel, the second molded plastic panel or both extend cross-vehicle;
- ii. the first material or the second material consists essentially of polypropylene and the first material or the second material consists essentially of pc/abs;
- iv. at least one of the first or second panels assists in defining an air duct for a vehicle cabin heating and cooling system; and
- v. the first panel is joined to the second panel with one or more mechanical joints that form a mechanical interlock;

wherein the first panel and second panel are separate from a show surface of the vehicle;

wherein one or both of the first panel and the second panel include an opening for receiving an instrument or a gauge; and

wherein one or both of the first panel and the second panel include a circular opening; and

wherein one or both of the first panel and the second panel include plural rectangular openings;

wherein the first panel and the second panel extend substantially linearly in a cross-vehicle direction.

Claim 102 (new): An assembly as in claim 101 wherein:

- i. the one or more mechanical joints include one or more mechanical interlocks and the mechanical interlocks include a protrusion received in a channel;
- ii. at least one of the panels provides a vent that is configured to open into a passenger compartment of the vehicle; and
- iii. the panels are joined to each other at flanges of the first panel or the second panel, the flanges extending along sides of the first panel or second panel.

Claim 103 (new): An assembly as in claim 102 wherein:

- i. the first panel and the second panel are joined to a separate show surface that is formed of a molded-in-color thermoplastic polyolefin;
- ii. the show surface is exposed to view in an automotive vehicle;
- iii. wherein one or both of the first panel and the second panel include an opening for receiving a gauge; and
- iv. one or both of the first panel and the second panel include an opening for receiving an instrument.